

Expansion of Fort Davis Historic Site Expected to be Signed by President

Washington, DC—Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) today announced passage of H.R. 146, The *Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009* which included language for the Fort Davis Historic site in the 23rd District of Texas. The bill includes over 70 measures from the 110th Congress that had previously passed the House. One such measure authorized the expansion of Fort Davis National Historic Site to preserve a prominent view so that the public can experience the fort just as travelers and settlers did in the 1800s. The bill passed the House today by a vote of 285 - 140 and is expected to be signed by the President in the coming days.

“Our national parks are important to preserving the culture and history of our country as well as promoting tourism and economic growth.” said Rodriguez. “The Fort Davis Historic Site is one of the most well preserved historic forts in the country and by bringing in this treasured piece of land we will allow for tourists and the community to enjoy the fort just as travelers and settlers viewed it in the 1800s.”

Specifically, Rodriguez’s language in the Parks Omnibus Bill would allow the National Park Service to acquire additional land, from willing sellers, for a site that has been the subject of concern for the community and conservationists. Since the current acreage cap of the Fort Davis Historic Site is 476, and the park currently occupies 473 acres of that allotment, an acreage cap increase would also be necessary, which the bill would allow the Park Service to do.

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